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BOROUGH



OF RYDE.

FORTY-SECOND
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health


TO THE

TOWN COUNCIL,

ACTING AS THE

Sanitary Authority for the Borough of Ryde

For the Year 1921.



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WEST END,

JOHN STREET, RYDE,

March, 1922.

GENTLEMEN,

In submitting my first Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for the Borough of Ryde, I feel it incumbent on me to explain that I have endeavoured to cover the whole year in one report, basing my remarks on the first four-and-a-half months upon facts and figures supplied to me by Dr. Turner, my predecessor, by the Sanitary Inspector and by the Registrar. I have attempted to make the record a continuous one, and this task has been made more easy for me by Circular No. 269 of the Ministry of Health, which states that a full or Survey report need be furnished only once in five years, the Annual Reports on other occasions being in an abridged form; and that the report for 1921 is to be of this type. The report for 1920 was a complete one, covering all local conditions, housing, water, etc. I propose, therefore, to submit for this year an abridged report, referring only to conditions which vary from year to year, or to matters which presented themselves to my notice during the seven-and-a-half months of my service.

Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

Water Supply. The report on a sample of water forwarded to Messrs. Angell & Angell, Public Analysts, on April 6th, 1921, shows that the water supply maintains its excellent standard of purity. Owing to

the prolonged drought of the summer and autumn, there was a considerable fall in the level of water in the new well, and anxiety was felt lest a shortage should ensue. However, by drastic restrictions and by the utilisation of water from the Old Mill Well, this disaster was averted. The water from the Mill Well contains a large proportion of iron, and consequently the water, as delivered by the mains, was discoloured; but bacteriological investigation proved that no pollution resulted, and apart from the admixture of iron, the water maintained its usual standard of purity.

General Statistics.

Area (acres) 820.

Population :—Census, 1921, 11,295 : Registrar-General's figures, 10,410.

Number of Inhabited Houses, 2,650.

Number of Families or Separate Occupiers, 3,268.

Rateable Value, £71,618 10s.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate, £255.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

Births. Legitimate, 88 Males. 69 Females.

Illegitimate, 5 Males. 4 Females.

Total Births, 166.

Birth Rate, 15·9

(Average for 148 smaller towns, 22·7).

Deaths, 155. 62 Males. 93 Females.

Death Rate, 14·9.

(Average for 148 smaller towns, 11·3).

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth, Nil.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age :

Legitimate, 7. Illegitimate, 1. Total, 8.

Infantile Mortality, 48·2 per 1,000 births.

(Average for 148 smaller towns, 84).

Deaths from Measles (all ages), Nil.

Deaths from Whooping Cough, Nil.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years), Nil.

Notifiable Diseases during the Year.

Disease.	Number of Cases.	Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Diphtheria	3	1	—
Scarlet Fever	45	35	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—
Puerperal Septicæmia	—	—	—
Pneumonia	4	—	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—
Tuberculosis—			
(a) Pulmonary, M.	4		
F.	11		
Total	15		13
(b) Non-pulmonary	—	—	—
		Treated at Home.	Treated in Hospital
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	1	1

(Vision Unimpaired in both cases).

An outbreak of Scarlet Fever in the latter part of the year strained the capacity of the Borough Isolation Hospital to its full extent. Fortunately it was found unnecessary to take over an Army Hut, as was proposed, for extra accommodation.

Two cases of encephalitis lethargica (both fatal) occurred at the Royal I.W. County Hospital, but neither was resident within the Borough.

Nursing. In addition to a number of private Nurses, most excellent work is done by the staff of the Ryde District Nursing Association. This staff consists of a Superintendent, Two Midwives, a Health Visitor (also a certified Midwife), a School Nurse, and two General Nurses. The majority of maternity cases in the Borough are attended by the District Nurses. The salaries of School Nurse and Health Visitor are partly paid by the Borough and partly by the Ministry of Health.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

The Mothercraft Centre is well attended and does excellent work. The centre is managed by the Ryde District Nursing Association, and a clinic for ante-natal cases requiring advice, and also for infants, is attended by the Medical Officer of Health. This work is co-ordinated with health visiting in the homes, and mothers are encouraged, in cases where breast feeding is impossible or insufficient, to learn the method of preparation of feeds on the system recommended by Dr. Truby King, by watching the preparation of such feeds at the Nurses' Home.

A Hostel for ailing children of the Isle of Wight was opened in March, and affords accommodation for eleven infants under two years and twenty-four children from two to five years, besides containing wards with five maternity beds. The Staff comprises a

Superintendent, one day and one night Sister (fully trained) and several Assistants, who, though not certified Nurses, have had considerable experience. There is also a Midwife for the maternity wards. It is too early to expect a great rush on these wards, having in mind the undoubted preference of women in this country for confinement at home : but the children's portion of the building is well filled. The wards are regularly visited by Dr. Paterson and the Medical Officer of Health, but any practitioner can attend his own cases. The scheme has the support of the Ministry of Health.

Other Clinics. A Venereal clinic is held weekly at the Royal Isle of Wight County Hospital, and is attended by Dr. Campbell, of Portsmouth.

Tuberculosis is under the direct jurisdiction of the County Medical Officer.

Fever Hospital. Accommodation : usual, fourteen.
emergency, sixteen.

Staff. One Matron.

One Cook-General.

One Man, who, besides attending to the Isolation Hospital grounds, superintends the removal of patients to and from the Hospital, disinfects rooms and performs numerous other valuable services.

During the Scarlatina epidemic, extra Nurses were obtained from the Rays Nursing Home.

Other Institutions. For unmarried mothers, a Home in Pellhurst Road, under the auspices of the Preventive and Rescue Association.

For illegitimate infants: these are received at the above-mentioned Hostel and maintained for a small sum, payable weekly, until they reach school age.

A Home for the motherless children of ex-soldiers, under the auspices of the Church Army, in Spencer Road. Some of these are orphans.

Sanitary Inspection of District.

Number of Nuisances reported during	
the year	111
Notices served (formal)...	4
Abated without formal notice...	107
Syphons of Drains choked	10
Drains opened and repaired	1
Yard Gullies choked	20
New Gullies provided	14
W.C. Pans and Traps provided	14
W.C. Cisterns provided	8
W.C. Cisterns repaired	2
Inspection Chambers provided...	2
Ventilation Shafts raised	3
Defective Spouting repaired	15
Defective Stack Pipes	12
Sanitary Dustbins provided	30
Houses inspected	42

Food.

(a) Milk Supply. A report is received quarterly from Mr. J. Vickers Blake, Veterinary Surgeon. In the last quarter of the year, all the dairies in the Borough were visited, 139 head of cattle inspected, all of which were healthy, and cattle, premises and utensils, were found to be kept in a satisfactory state.

All the samples of milk taken and submitted to analysis during the year were found to be pure and to contain the required percentage of fats, except in one case in which a small, but definite, quantity of dirt was found. In this case the dairyman was warned, but there has been no prosecution within the Borough.

Milk is supplied to indigent expectant and nursing mothers, under the Maternity and Child Welfare Act, 1918. A contract for the supply of such milk has been placed with Mr. J. H. Foss, of Bettsworth Road, and samples of milk inspected have, in all cases, been found clean and pure. There is a graduated scale of incomes, according to the number of persons in family, and of children under three years of age, below which free milk may be supplied, and a margin above this within which milk may be supplied at half price.

(b) Meat. The Sanitary Inspector holds a diploma for meat inspection, and a sharp look out is being kept on all meat slaughtered for consumption in the Borough. As noted later, 307 lbs. of diseased pork have been confiscated and destroyed—this during the last two months of the year. This item shows the need for efficient meat inspection even in a district such as this, where stock is good and well fed.

Slaughter Houses. There are seven registered slaughter-houses and one licenced, in the Borough.

Food Inspection.

Number of Butchers shops inspected ...	13
Dairies inspected	1
Fishmongers shops inspected	6

Visits to Slaughter Houses (there are eight slaughter houses in the district)	30
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Destroyed :—

307 lbs. of diseased Pork.
1 carcase of a Sheep.
60 lbs. Corned Beef.
170 lbs. Beef.
38 lbs. Tomatoes.
210 lbs. Fish.

Public Health Officers.

One Medical Officer of Health (part time).
One Sanitary Inspector (whole time).

On November 22nd, 1921, Mr. J. Eldridge resigned this office after thirty-six years service. His successor, Mr. A. Ainley, holds a diploma for meat inspection as well as his sanitary certificate, and much of his energies, so far, have been concentrated on this department of the sanitary work of the Borough.

One Health Visitor.
One School Nurse.
Staff of Fever Hospital : as set out above.

Housing.

Number of new houses erected during the year	1
Under £20 a year	0
Number of houses	2,696
Ditto £12 and under	1,075
Ditto £12 to £20	732

Dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects	...	...	...	...	42
Inspected and recorded under 1910 regulations	...	...	...	...	0
Found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation	...	...	...	...	0
Found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation					35
Informal notices	...	...	...	..	107
Cases in which formal notice was required	...	...	...	...	4
Cases in which repairs were undertaken by Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	1
Closing orders	...	...	...	...	0
Demolition orders	..	...	...	...	0

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

L. FIRMAN-EDWARDS,

Medical Officer of Health.

